

WHAT ABOUT THE LANDFILL?



Is This Polluting the Water?

The landfill is located adjacent to Long Pond, with groundwater flowing towards the Pond. The MEP states that 24% of the nutrient pollution in the Watershed is coming from this location. In 2015, tests showed lower Total Nitrogen levels at Station 6, with variable results from one year to another at Station 5 on Long Pond (see map on reverse). Other testing showed lower values as well, but none were low enough to meet water quality standards set in the TMDL.

What is happening at the landfill that could account for this? The landfill is currently being reduced by mining-removing any valuable fill dirt left behind after all of the organic processes have completed their natural cycle. The leftover plastic, metal, etc. is being reprocessed and reclaimed. The landfill will be reduced to about 15 acres and will be contained in new lined cells constructed to today's standards-no leaching. We will continue with the mining operation and continue to monitor this area closely to determine the impact the mining may or may not have on the water quality in this area.

"Long Pond's Bay Health scores for both stations (5 & 6) in the 4 years of monitoring (2010, 2012, 2013, 2014) clearly indicate poor nutrient related water quality. Town's management of the Landfill, which should reduce the nitrogen load from this source is temporally consistent with improvements in the water quality Index for Long Pond and the lower TN levels. While continued monitoring will determine the level of improvement, it does appear that a reduction in N loading may be occurring with beneficial effects."

Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment of the Nantucket Island-Wide Estuaries and Salt Ponds

Board of Selectmen

Town Administration

Department of Public Works

Board of Health

Natural Resources Department

Planning and Land Use



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COMMENT / QUESTION CORNER

Comments and/or questions for the Wastewater Plan Update can be sent to:
Sewerproject@nantucket-ma.gov

Answers and/or comments will appear in future communications and/or addressed at Board of Selectmen meetings.

NOTE: All figures are from the MEP Reports and subsequent Technical Memos.

MADAKET HARBOR WATERSHED



WATER QUALITY SUMMARY

2010 THROUGH 2015

